

THE
**FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS**

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

**George Washington
Birthplace National
Monument**

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: GEWA

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

By the year 2016, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, with the implementation of these Centennial Challenge projects, will have developed partnerships, protected park resources and assests, promoted visitor understanding, and reconnected with under represented park constituents.

Acquisition of privately owned lands within the authorized boundary would preserve the historic setting and viewshed of this colonial-era park, while addressing many of the concerns affiliated with staedily rising growth and development within the region.

Restoration of the Cultural Landscape, to address the loss of trees due to storm damage, aging, and other causes. The loss of trees has resulted in significant changes to the character and integrity of the 18th century and commemorative cultural landscapes at the site.

Development and installation of hands-on, interactive educational exhibits, interpreting the birth of George Washington, plantation life of the 18th century including slavery, and influences of George Washington. The new exhibits would include untold stories, multiple points of view, and diverse perspectives.

Development and production of a new park orientation film. New park themes, being developed in conjunction with the park's new General Management Plan, will be addressed and developed so that visitors may gain a truer understanding and appreciation of the traditions that influenced the young George Washington, and that his actions as an adult were crucial to the establishment of the United States as an independent nation founded on the principles of universal liberty.

Restoration of commemorative structures, to include paths, bridges, walk ways, fences, and circulation patterns. Past management actions, reductions of maintenance personnel, and lack of park resources have resulted in damage to structures and a loss of context within the cultural landscapes.

Plan, design, and construction of slave quarters at George Washington Birthplace, to expose visitors to untold stories about the economic and social conditions of slaves living and working on the Washington Family plantation. A closer look at slavery and its historical and cultural contributions will present tremendous learning opportunities for visitors, and for current and future educational programs.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Vidal Martinez

